(d) and (e) A gradual phasing out of the Mig-21 fleet is being resorted to keeping in view factors like technical and calendar life, maintainability and replacement. However, a specific time frame can not be fixed.

Steps to Prevent Infiltration

1038. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO:
SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan sponsored terrorist outfits were making their leases and digging hideouts in Hilkaka and surrounding ridges and passes along the Western slopes of Pir Panjal range in Jammu and Kashmir for the last many years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) when these developments came to the notice of Indian Armed Forces;

(c what were the reasons for the failure of our intelligence in such important areas; and

(e) the action taken and proposed to be taken by Government to prevent such infiltration and abuse of our border areas by terrorists?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (b) Intelligence agencies have been monitoring activities of terrorists in Hilkaka area of Jammu & Kashmir during the last four years. The terrorists often use the remote and rugged areas like Hilkaka for establishing hideouts and caches for weapons. Based on the intelligence inputs, a large number of counter insurgency operations were conducted during the last four years to neutralize terrorists operating in the area.

(e) Adequate military measures have been put in place to check infiltration of terrorists into Jammu & Kashmir. The countrer measures in vogue include surveillance of all known routes of infiltration, including deployment of electronic surveillance devises, multi-tiered deployment, construction of fencing along the International Border in Jammu & Kashmir and at selected places along the Line of Control.